The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information as will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 7. NO. 43. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 1918. WHOLE NO. 356.

UNION MINE WORKERS CITED FOR CONTEMPT

Washington, Jan. 19. — President Frank J. Hayes, Vice President John L. Lewis, and Secretary-Treasurer William Green of the United Mine Workers, and seven other officers and members of this trade union, have been ordered by the United States supreme court to appear before the tribunal March 4, next, and show cause why they should not be declared in contempt of court and punished for violating an injunction restraining them from "knowingly and wilfully enticing plaintiff's employes, present or future * * * to leave plaintiff's service without plaintiff's consent, against plaintiff's will and to plaintiff's injury." The unionists were debarred from entering the plaintiff's "or interfering in any manner whatsoever" with the employes of the company.

Two months after this order was issued the company filed a petition asking for work to sign employment cards wherein they agreed not to belong to the miners' union while they remained in the employ of the company.

The United States supreme court held that the Hitchman company is entitled to the protection of the court in the enjoyment of "a contract or agreement they may make," and denied the right of organized union workers to bring a party to such to the violation of this "agreement."

DAYS OF STRESS RECALLED.

Cincinnati, Jan. 19.—In announcing the change of name of the Journeymen Workers' Journal to the Brewery and Soft Drink Workers' Journal, because of this union's attempted Prohibition, the editor says:

"Deep in our heart we feel that we can not pass on lightly over this change of title of, our beloved journal.

"What a wealth of memories and recollections are awakened when we peruse the pages that record the beginning of our organization, its struggle for existence and its gradual development to its present commanding position.

"Nowadays few realize how necessary it was during the first 10 to 20 years for the poor slaves in the brewing industry of work by the pecked and would fearlessly take their part, how necessary it was to have a spokesman to defend their rights when they were in sharp articles, thunder away at the lawless conditions that at that time were still deluding themselves with the idea that they could forever hold their workers in slavery (for it was nothing else than slavery), and prevent the rise of our organization. Truly, those were the days until time that the brewery workers had to pass through before they could reach their present station. Many battles had to be fought and many sacrifices had to be made, and while often appearing as though our storm-tossed little craft would go under."

EQUAL SUFFRAGE WINS.

Washington, Jan. 19.—By a vote of 274 to 136, the house of representatives passed a federal suffrage amendment to the constitution today by the bare narrow margin of one vote. A two-thirds vote was necessary. The amendment now goes to the senate and if passed by that body by a two-thirds vote will be submitted to three-fourths by the legislatures of two-thirds of the states.

Opponents of the measure in the house presented the "states' rights" claim, which has been rejected by many of these same members in labor and other legislation that empowers the government to act in matters formerly left entirely to and upon the various states. It was also claimed that care for women "would destroy the home."

Unfortunately no one called the attention of these lawmakers to a recent report by Miss Mary, McDowell, of the committee on foreign-born women, council of national defense, which states that Chicago meat packers are employing women for night work after they have worked all day in their homes, and some of these women secure only one hour's sleep in the 24.

DENY LABOR SHORTAGE.

Washington, Jan. 19.—"There is no shortage of labor in the United States," Secretary Frank Lane, assistant secretary of labor, at the opening of the new quarters of the United States employment service in this city declared today.

"There is plenty of labor," said the speaker, "and the only shortage is existing is shortage of that surplus which gathered wherever there was a job open, and which enabled the factory owner to grind the laborers at will.

"All that needs to be done," he continued, "is to redistribute the labor and readjust it to comply with the peculiar demands of the times. We must let the jobless man to the man-less job."

Shipbuilding labor could be procured by marshalling the large numbers of carpenters and builders who have been thrown out of work by the decrease in building construction, said Mr. Post.

STANDS FOR DEMOCRACY.

Los Angeles, Cal., Jan 19.—Under orders of Federal Judge Bledsoe, a grand jury is investigating charges of illegal arrest and deportation of three local society secretary man. The proceeding was declared by the court to be a high-handed outrage.

Montgomery, Ala., Jan. 19.—Federal Judge Clayton has ruled that the right of habeas corpus exists even in times of war, except in cases made as a military necessity. The government resisted habeas corpus claims in the case of 11 interned enemy alien. The court overruled this claim and set a date for the hearing.

DOLLAR VALUE DECLINES.

Washington, Jan. 19.—The buying power of the dollar has been reduced 40 per cent in the last 10 years and the average prices for the same period have risen 65 per cent, said Alvin Hansen, president of the American Railway association, testifying before the senate committee on interstate commerce.

COAL OUTPUT LARGE

Denver, Jan. 19.—The 1917 coal production of Colorado broke all records, despite the car shortage. In 1916 12,198,87 tons were mined. This year, when the Colorado coal fields were idle for weeks at a time, when the output reached 12,000,000 tons.

UNION RECOGNITION IS FIRST ESSENTIAL

New York, Jan. 19.—Trade union recognition is the first essential if employers would assist in the minimizing of industrial disturbance, says the committee on industry and employment, affiliated with the mayor's committee on national defense.

"In the first place, employers must recognize the unions and deal with them," says the report.

"Recognition of the union has been the rock over which many an attempt at mediation has split. Employers must be made to see that the working men have an inherent right to organize and present their case through the leaders of their organization. Until this principle, which has been recognized in the highland for years, is generally accepted in this country we can not hope to proceed far, for not only will we still have one of the main causes of industrial unrest still existent—but we will lack an basis for a machinery with which to adjust the inevitable differences which arise."

20,000 CORPORATIONS DODGING STATE TAXES

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 19.—At least 20,000 corporations escape the state net income tax, according to the state tax commission. Most of these concerns are prosperous, but they have so arranged their affairs they have no net income.

"They have never paid any dividends in many cases," reads the report, "yet they go on, year after year, doing an extended business. Under the present law they pay practically nothing for their franchises and for the privilege of doing business in the state. They generally own no real estate, and, therefore, pay nothing locally toward the support of the government.

"They should at least pay a flat tax of one mill on the par value of stock to the state, with a minimum tax of $10 per annum. It may be possible, however, that such a provision would produce annual revenues exceeding $1,500,000."

It is stated that taxation has increased in this state to a per capita of $20.50 and $30 for every man, woman and child.

"It is a serious condition," continues the report, "when the state tax of a family of four members surrenders $126 a year from his income and the cost of government. The cost of government may not be excessive, but its unequal distribution should be corrected as far as possible."

MANY WORKERS INJURED.

San Francisco, Jan. 19.—The report of the state industrial accident commission says there were approximately 100,000 industrial injuries in California in 1916. Federal injuries in California are reported by the commission and the number of federal employes in the state is large. It is, therefore, reasonable to assume that as many as 94,879 injuries to employes in California were reported to the commission, the estimate of six figures can be substantiated.

The commission includes in its report this statement: "Deaths in 1916, 857; 1915, 1,014. Permanent injuries in 1916, 1,709; 1915, 1,264; 1914, 1,292. Eyes suffering an impairment of vision, 1916, 1,000; 1915, 1,000; 1914, 975; 1914, 172. Arms amputated—1916, 20; 1915, 12; 1914, 28. Fingers lost—1916, 909; 1915, 788; 1914, 972. Legs or feet lost—1916, 26; 1915, 28; 1914, 45. Temporary injuries—1916, 23,-915, 40; 1914, 54. In 1916 there were 4 women workers killed; 2 in 1915 and 3 in 1914. The average age of the killed during the three years, 1914-1916 was 38 years and the average wage was $13.50 a day.

Occupational diseases reported in 1916 numbered 348.

SHOP MEN TO MEET.

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 19.—The A. F. of L. railway employes' department has issued a call for its biennial convention to be held in this city beginning April 8. In urging a full representation of all organized roads in the United States and Canada, Secretary Wharton and Secretary-Treasurer Scott said:

"With the railroads under government control we are entering upon a new era, which looks hopeful for possibilities, as we believe it will open the way for the attainment of standards in wages and hours of service which we have struggled many years to secure. The future success and prosperity of the railroads, in fact, however, depend upon our own activity and efficiency, perhaps more so in the future than in the past, and we trust that all trades will appreciate the opportunity and send a delegate to represent their interests."

LABOR MUST BE needed.

Washington, Jan. 19.—Premature calls for workers from ship yards and munitions plants, which have been sanctioned upon by the United States employment service unless it is shown they have exhausted the local supply, labor housing facilities have been provided, says the federal department of labor.

Pacific coast shipbuilding industry reports, are far ahead of eastern yards. Many calls have come from the latter but it has been established that they were premature because of the large labor reserve in these plants. The department estimates that the employment service must furnish between Canada, August, 50,000 workers in order that the force of 146,000 men needed will be constantly at work.

2-CENT R. R. RATE UPHELD.

Washington, Jan. 19.—The Illinois Central railroad and 28 other roads, by an unanimous decision of the supreme court, lost their fight to have the Illinois 2-cent passenger fare set aside.

The court also affirmed the lower court, which held that the interstate commerce commission exceeded its authority in issuing an order which required the suspension of the 2-cent rate fixed by the state law and the substitution of a rate not exceeding 2.4 cents.

NO NEED FOR CHINESE.

Washington, Jan. 19.—Louis F. Post, assistant secretary of labor, has written United States Senator Phelan that it is not necessary for the senate to investigate the question of importing Chinese labor, as provided in a resolution presented by Senator Gallinger, as a special farm-labor service has been organized under the United States employment service of the department of labor.

Government Officials Exonerate Miners For Nation's Coal Shortage

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION, WASHINGTON.

Coal Miners Not Responsible for Frequent Layoffs.

Testimony recently given before the senate manufacturing committee by Federal Trade Commissioner William H. Colver is of peculiar interest to labor unions generally, and to miners' workers specifically. It refutes statements that the miners are responsible to work full time because of high wages. Commissioner Colver's replies to inquiries of senators investigating the coal situation emphasized conditions which make it impossible for miners to work six days a week.

Describing how coal cars have been misused, not properly distributed among the mines, and sometimes used as storage room for purposes of speculation, Commissioner Colver said:

"I do not think the cars are now used by speculators for the same purpose because the president's press and Dr. Garfield's administration since has made speculation impossible. In fact, I think the transportation not only is no better, but is worse than it was, right now, than it was at the time of the winter. I think that the measure of the production of the mines from day by day; of empty coal cars at the mouth of the mine. A miner will not be sent to the mine to work unless there are cars delivered to receive the product of his labor, because the coal cannot be stored, and there is no place for it. That is the measure; there is now, and at all times I say at all times, at least a year ago—of miners laid off from the mine when they are ready and willing to work, from one to four or five days a week."

The examination continued as follows:

Mr. Colver — Why, senator, there has been no time when miners could work six days a week. Now, it is true that in some of the mines they do work six days a week; but, as a whole, it is not true. I think that the average idle time is at least two days out of the week.

On the average right straight through the country, a stock of bituminous coal, the average idle time for these miners is from two to three days a week; so far as the miners are concerned, you would not be 10 per cent short in production. You can get up 10 per cent more that is easy, we might need in time of war with the present mining force; but it is an extremely easy matter to add to any other labor to have occasional overtime work in a couple of days and then be laid off for a day or two days.

Senator Kenyon—If the miners are laid off for a couple of days a week, are they not producing less coal?

Mr. Colver—Oh, yes.

Senator Lodge—That is what causes the shortage.

Mr. Colver—There is where the shortage comes in.

Senator Jones of New Mexico—The cause of the laying off of the miners, as I understand, is the lack of cars.

Mr. Colver—Yes.

Senator Kenyon—If they had the cars, then, the miners could work the full time?

Mr. Colver—Yes.

Senator Kenyon—And then we would not have any shortage of coal?

Mr. Colver—Absolutely not, and there would be no need, senator, for any suggested two-thirty, or overcoming the opening of new mines. The present openings are sufficient. They must be, because all these miners can go to work if they are given a chance to do so.

During the examination, Commissioner Colver read into the record the following quotation from the commissioner's annual annual report as follows:

"The delay in the movement of coal cars, both loaded and empty, continues to limit the output of the mines. Bituminous mines are able to work to average only 12 or 15 miles a day are now matters of common knowledge. A statement issued recently by way of exhortation to labor or increased production by congress against the absolute limit of production set by the misuses of coal car equipment, of which frequently used, there is an adequate supply."

Supreme Court Hint Applied By Employer

Oregon City, Ore., Jan. 19.—The Crown Willamette Paper company is acting on a hint by the United States supreme court in the recent Hitchman-zine Workers' case, that unless officials can be enjoined if they attempt to unionize the Hitchman mines, because the management of the company agree that they would not join the union while they remained in its employ. The company has now a sign posting about the "open shop" in its fight with the paper makers' union, but it now throws off the mask and demands that its strikebreakers sign the following anti-union contract:

"In consideration of being granted employment by Crown Willamette Paper company, I hereby represent that I am not a member of any labor organization and that I will not become a member of any labor organization while employed by said Crown Willamette Paper company. I also agree that while in said company's employ I will not make any efforts among its employes, or otherwise, to bring about the unionizing of that company's plant, or plants, or business.

"Should I desire, while in Crown Willamette Paper company's employ, to become a member of any labor organization, I agree to withdraw from said employment at once."

Lack Of Management Causes Labor Waste

Washington, Jan. 19.—The boasted ability of our "captains of industry" is shown in a different light in the report of the proceedings of the employment managers' conference called by the federal bureau of labor statistics.

Many employers, it is stated, realize that a changed policy must be adopted toward their employes; that the greatest waste in all industries is the waste of labor due to bad systems or no systems of handling employes, resulting in irregular employment, no one knows how much work, no work, unsuitable work, no training for work, training for no work, and the conditions of work.

"It is believed," continues the report, "that the output of labor per man could be greatly increased—perhaps as much as 50 per cent—by a rational system of management which would give due regard to the health and welfare of the workers, to the elimination of fatigue, to the development of interest in the work, to the encouragement of initiative, and to the reduction of the hours of labor to the lowest point consistent with the highest production per unit of time. Economy of consumption, that is, the art of spending the dollar wisely, is even more important than economy of production, or the art of earning the dollar. Employers, working men, and consumers alike have a direct interest in getting 100 cents' worth of utility for every dollar paid in wages.

"All the conditions whatever to-do with speeding up machinery, cutting down piece rates, working longer hours, and the like, are bad methods of trying to increase output per man per day and per dollar of wages. The right way is by shortening the working day, preventing accidents at convenient intervals, advancing rates, not cutting rates, cutting out overtime, regularizing the employe so that instead of his job he is doing, and helping him to get the most out of his earnings and his leisure."

British Unionists To Visit America

Washington, Jan. 19.—On receiving information that a delegation of British trade unionists would visit this country in the future, Presidential Gompers, on Jan. 9, cabled this message to W. A. Appleton, secretary of the British trades union congress, London:

"I am gratified that you and a number of other representative British labor men are coming to United States. You and they will find hearty greeting and co-operation.

"The declaration of December 28 British labor conference at Westminster is in essential principles identical with declarations of November, American Federation of Labor at Buffalo. The Lloyd George declaration last week on the man power conference and those of President Wilson yesterday to the American congress are in accordance with the vital issues and aims in this war. Thus the official representatives of our governments and of the labor movements of our respective countries have expressed the will and purpose of the people, the united people and the workers of Great Britain and America.

"If any call should be issued for an international conference of workers, it would be attended by delegates of the American Federation of Labor will not participate. The people of America, the workers of America, have their own domain and make sufficiently free international relations that life shall be secure for the people of all countries may live their lives in accordance with their ideals of civilization, and unless this has been accomplished by the German people through the allied conference in this struggle must crush militarism and autocracy and bring a new freedom to the German people as well as Germany included. Until these essentials have been established an international labor conference with the representatives of the workers of all countries would be premature and unjudicial to a desirable and lasting peace."

ATTACKS R. R. CONTROL.

Washington, Jan. 19.—The United States supreme court has ruled that the constitution, by implication, gives to congress the right to organize the military purposes, but Congressman Lamroot is not sure that the constitutional right extends to the control of the railroads in war time.

"The administration wants to know by what authority the president has acted thusly. No such power has been delegated to the president, that he can give the director of railroads the authority to set aside, if necessary, all laws of congress, the interstate commerce commission and all statutes of the state and courts' commissions, says the congressman.

New York, Jan. 19.—Railroad officials are anxious to know how long the government intends to control their lines, and the length of time the city, attended by representatives of the railroad brotherhoods and in the country, it was agreed that the government be asked when and in what manner the roads are to be returned to them.

209 CARPENTERS IDLE.

Salt Lake City, Utah, Jan. 19.—Two hundred and nine carpenters in this city in spite of the fact that the weather is ideal for carpenter work, are idle, according to the business agent of the carpenters' district council.

The union official said that many Salt Lake City carpenters went to the Pacific coast and found a labor shortage existing in contract settlements in the public press. "Many of them are now back and say that there was no exaggeration in the reports that were sent out. Jacobs, "spent their time working and not getting much, but found idle carpenters walking the streets."

R. R. FINED $1,000.

Jersey City, N. J., Jan. 19.—The Lehigh Valley railroad has been fined $1,000 for manslaughter in connection with the death of Engineer Hoffman at Black Tom on July 30, 1916. Other indictments against officials of the road were quashed. The explosion resulted in the death of many persons and the destruction of property valued at dollars' worth of property. The fine is the maximum penalty provided by law in cases of manslaughter. It is also impossible to imprison a corporation, the court said.

PACKER'S PROFIT LARGE.

Chicago, Jan. 19.—Clear profits far surpassing all previous records are recorded by Swift & company, meat packers, in the fiscal year ended September, 1917. The profits exceeded about to 24.61 per cent on the company's capital stock, and compare with net profits of $20,665,000 in 1916, which were equal to 16.53 per cent on the $75,000,000 stock then outstanding.

BOILER MAKERS GAIN.

Joplin, Mo., Jan. 19.—The Boiler Makers' union has secured agreements with several large concerns for a 9 hour day.

Lack Of Labor Housing Hinders War Work

Washington, Jan. 19.—Inadequate housing facilities for workers in shipbuilding and munitions plants in the Pacific coast district are hindering the war program, according to a report of the United States department of labor.

Reports from the Atlantic coast district are more optimistic, the report says, but even there the housing problem is serious.

"Ship and munitions building is now the most important industry in the country," says the report, "and the success of the war program depends largely upon the speed with which it is developed. Labor is the most important factor in this industry, and adequate housing facilities must be provided for the workers if the program is to be carried out."

WANTS IDLE LAND TAXED.

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 19.—William M. Reedy, editor of Reedy's Mirror, says that idle land is one thing that has escaped the war tax. He urges congress to force this land to "do its bit" for democracy.

"The single tax would get at about $5,000,000,000 of increment of land value in the railroads the government has taken over," he says.

"Land value taxation would relieve industry of taxation and increase the production of war stuff. Land held idle during and after the war, idle land speculation and other unearned land increases prices. Yet everything is taxed but idle land. All business suffers from idle land and idle land makes used land cost more to the users. A proper tax on land held out of use would put idle land into use and steel shortage and every other shortage would end. In a war for democracy the government has failed to go to the one inescapably indicated democratic thing that would help most to win the war and provide for recovery after the war and make for real lines of opportunity and social peace."

NAVY LEAGUE HEAD QUITS.

New York, Jan. 19.—Col. R. M. Thompson, president of the Navy League, seems to have lost out in his controversy with Secretary of the Navy Daniels. The colonel has resigned his office because of "ill health." The latter has refused to sanction organization intended to develop a "big navy" spirit in this country. Thompson and his followers charged the navy department with concealing the report on an accident to a vessel at the recently organized labor. Secretary of the Navy Daniels, published the report, however, and in order prohibiting any one connected with the navy to have anything to do with the Navy League or its present officers. As a result of this order, the league was forced to make its organization a "civilian" body.

MANY STRIKES AVERTED

Washington, Jan. 19.—Mediation by the federal department of labor has averted strikes in munitions plants, shipyards and machine shops in this vicinity. The government has been asked to adjust 11 cases by the department of labor for securing homes for workers.

The question of suitable homes is a vital one in every city recently appointed a commission to investigate. The commission agreed that houses were badly needed.

POLISHERS WINNING.

Toronto, Canada, Jan. 19.—Organized metal polishers are winning their fight for better conditions. Agreements have been signed by employer in the city that almost all of the employes are members of the union.

Need Houses For Workers.

Wilmington, Del., Jan. 19.—A director of labor for this district has been appointed to secure workers for munitions plants, ship yards and machine shops in this vicinity. The government has been asked to adjust 11 cases by the department of labor for securing homes for workers.

The question of suitable homes is a vital one in every city recently appointed a commission to investigate. The commission agreed that houses were badly needed.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Colorado Springs, Col., Jan. 19.—Typographical union No. 42 has signed a new agreement with local newspapers. The scale calls for $25 for a week and over eight-work 48 with

WAR TAX REACHES MANY.

Washington, Jan. 19.—The new income tax, which must be paid on or before June 15 next, will reach hundreds of persons who have heretofore never had direct financial dealings with the government.

Under this law, every unmarried person with an income over $1,000, and every married person with an income over $2,000 must pay a tax of 2 per cent only according to income, wages, or salary.

Under this law if John Doe, an unmarried man, earns $30 a week, or $1,560 a year, he is exempted from $1,000 and must pay 2 per cent on $560, which is $5.12. If John Doe is married he pays no tax, as he describes under the $2,000 exemption for married men. To be reached by the tax married men must earn over $2,000. They are allowed an exemption of $200 for every child.

Returns must be made, on forms provided by the government, on or before the first day of March next.

Heavy penalties are provided where a person ignores this law or acts on the assumption that the government will not find out. It must be understood that the person must call on the government.

Internal revenue collectors of the various districts will furnish information, together with necessary information, that a correct statement may be made out.

Government officials urge citizens to give prompt heed to the provisions of this law, that they may have ample time to correct any error in their statement.

CAN'T HOUSE WORKERS.

Philadelphia, Jan. 19.—Failure to house workers makes it impossible to secure sufficient labor for Delaware river ship yards, according to Edward L. Keenan, president of the federal shipping board's wage commission, at hearings in this city.

Keenan, Andrews, representing the New York Shipbuilding company at Camden, declared that a force of 2,000 or 4,000 men and that work would probably be delayed because workers could not be called on for if they came to Camden. He said there were only five available houses in the entire city near the site of the plant.

Representatives of the Harlan & Hollingsworth corporation, Wilmington, Del., ship builders, made the same complaint. Many street car transportation system in Wilmington was described as "impossible," and in Camden, it was said, workmen "are herded in like cattle," or forced to hang on the outside of the cars.

Tacoma, Wash., Jan. 19.—City officials have asked the Wheeler Osgood company, ship builders, to furnish houses for the thousands of workmen who will be needed in this plant. Improved street car service to the company's works is also asked.

MINERS WANT TO WORK.

Charleroi, Pa., Jan. 19.—"We are as loyal and patriotic as any citizens in this country and we want to work and earn enough money to live and keep our families," is the message organized miners of the Pittsburg district have sent to Fuel Administrator Garfield.

"We take this method," say these workers, "to inform you that a great many mines in this district are only working three days a week and unless we will have to get more work than we are getting or we can't live."

Clearfield, Pa., Jan. 19.—"Solve the railroad problem and there will be plenty of coal for everybody," said John Brophy, president of district No. 2, United Mine Workers, in a statement in opposition to conscription of labor.

"I am convinced that the men could have produced at least 100,000,000 more tons in 1917 had there been the cars to haul the coal. The miners recognize the country's needs and will cheerfully work more than eight hours a day or a week if they have the cars. Garfield admits the railroad system and the fuel administration are at fault, and so it is not proved that the miners refuse to work there is no justification for conscription of them."

FREE SPEECH FOR HARVARD.

Boston, Jan. 19.—Educators should not be denied free speech in war times, in the view of President Lowell of Harvard university.

"In spite of the risk of injury to the country, in the view of the majority of the report, "the objections to restraint upon professors may say as citizens what they think are far greater than the harm done by leaving them free. To impose restrictions in a university or to impose restrictions to which the members of other professions are not subject, would produce a sense of irritation and humiliation. In accepting a chair under such conditions a man would surrender a part of his liberty. What he might say would be submitted to the censorship of a board of trustees and an amount that will be increased somewhat when the actual value of property seized at the prison farm is ascertained.

TRACK WORKERS GAIN.

Detroit, Mich., Jan. 19.—Officials of the International Brotherhood of Maintenance-of-Way Employes report that the Duluth, South Shore and Atlantic railway has granted a raise to all maintenance-of-way men. Foremen are increased $ a month and other employes from 1 to 2 cents an hour.

The Hamilton Air-Hill railway has increased wages of its maintenance-of-way men to cents a day.

IRON-WORKERS WIN.

San Francisco, Jan. 19.—The California Metal Trades association has granted a new wage scale to iron workers which was requested by the iron trades council. These rates are: Additional, $4.50 a day. The wage adjustment board which was sent to the Pacific coast by the U. S. Shipping board.

CITY FIREMEN ADVANCE.

Belleville, Ill., Jan. 19.—The city council has raised wages of members of the fire department. The increase will become effective May 1 next.

Joplin, Mo., Jan. 19.—Coming valley tanneury with the scale 12 per cent increase, and a 9 hour day. The wages of their municipal week fire

31,000 ACCIDENTS.

Denver, Jan. 19.—The state industrial commission of Colorado has been $1,500 accidents within the state during the year 1917, according to the attorney were true, he said, "whether they were spoken in the course of a judicial proceeding or not, is a matter of pertinent to the subject, and whether, under the circumstances of the case, they were privileged."

On the basis of this interpretation, the opinion was rendered that a lawyer "was privileged in saying what he did."

ADVISES JAIL REFORMS.

Trenton, N. J., Jan. 19.—An early abolition of the remaining private labor contracts at the state prison and the introduction of modern methods in industries as have been recommended to take their place, is advocated in the annual report of the prison labor commission.

During the last year the state-use system has been under investigation. Institutions manufacture articles used by state institutions or departments, and the commission has received complaints from the operation of the state-use system. It has been found that an amount that will be increased somewhat when the actual value of property seized at the prison farm is ascertained.

BOOK WORKERS GAIN.

New York, Jan. 19.—After a three-days' strike the Bookbinders' and Carpenters' union has secured an eight-hour contract with the Book Building Contractors' association. Minimum wages shall be 62 1-2 cents an hour, with double time for overtime and Saturday afternoons, Sundays and holidays. The employer must provide a locker for each man, but tools and clothes and is held responsible for any tools or clothes lost on the job. When more than 10 men are employed they are to be paid for three hours' work.

The union is a 100 per cent organization. Since the agreement was signed it has doubled its membership within the last few months.

W. U. EARNINGS UP.

New York, Jan. 19.—These are prosperous times for the Western Union Telegraph company, whose profits last year were over $1,000,000 more than in 1916.

The figures, after deducting all charges, including interest on the bonded debt, are: 1917, $13,708,950; 1916, $12,388,400.

BURNS' FINE ILLEGAL.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 19.—The conviction of Detective William J. Burns on a charge of publishing private papers in connection with efforts to get information from the state industrial labor bureau has been held illegal by the court of appeals here today.